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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 11-16 are allowed and that claims 2 and 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant notes that although the Examiner indicated that claims 11-16 are allowed, it appears that the Examiner intended to indicate that claims 11-15 (NOT 11-16) are allowed since claim 16 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Potters et al.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Potters et al. (U.S. 6,320,252). Claims 3, 8, 10 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Potters et al. in view of Young et al. (U.S. 5,596,486). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim 1 recites:

"An information card comprising:
a conductive external panel;
a ground member that is integral with said external panel; and
a circuit substrate having a ground conductor portion; wherein
said ground member is connected to said ground conductor
portion of said circuit substrate contained in the information card
and is externally exposed." (emphasis added)

Claim 7 recites:

"An information card comprising:
a conductive external panel; and
a connector contained in the information card including an
external conductor; wherein
an inner side of said conductive external panel electrically
contacts an outer side of said external conductor of said connector
contained in the information card so as to be connected to each
other." (Emphasis added)

Claim 9 recites:

"An information card comprising:
a conductive external panel; and

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a circuit substrate having a ground conductor portion; wherein said conductive external panel electrically contacts said ground conductor portion of said circuit substrate contained in the information card so as to be connected to each other." (Emphasis added)

Claim 16 recites:

**"An information card comprising:
an external panel having a ground member disposed therein;
and
a seat member protruding in the direction opposed to said ground member." (Emphasis added)**

With the improved features recited in claim 1, 7, 9 and 16, Applicant has been able to provide an information card having a reduced number of components and which requires fewer steps to produce, thus, greatly reducing the cost of producing the information card (see, for example, the second full paragraph on page 2 of the originally filed specification).

The Examiner alleged that Potters et al. teaches each and every feature recited in each of claims 1, 7, 9 and 16, including a conductive external panel 2, a ground member 14 that is integral with the external panel 2, a circuit substrate 11 having a ground conductor portion, wherein the ground member 14 is connected to the ground conductor portion of the circuit substrate contained in the information card and is externally exposed. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

First, contrary to the Examiner's allegations, element 2 of Potters et al. is disclosed as being an I/O connector receptacle, **NOT** a conductive external panel. In fact, the I/O connector receptacle of Potters et al. clearly cannot be fairly construed as a conductive external panel, as alleged by the Examiner, because as seen in Figs 2-2b, the I/O connector receptacle 2 of Potters et al. is clearly disposed **inside** the information card, and is covered by the upper and lower shields 5 and 6. Since neither the upper nor the lower shield of Potters et al. (which most closely correspond to the conductive external panel recited in Applicant's claim 1) includes a ground member that is integral

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therewith, Potters et al. clearly fails to teach or suggest "a conductive external panel" and "a ground member that is integral with said external panel" as recited in Applicant's claim 1.

Second, the metal rivet 14 of Potters et al. is connected to the I/O connector receptacle and extends through a via hole in circuit board 11. However, the metal rivet is completely contained within the upper and lower shields 5 and 6, and is not exposed outside of the information card. Thus, the metal rivet 14 of Potters et al. clearly cannot be fairly construed as a ground member that is "externally exposed" as recited in Applicant's claim 1.

Third, contrary to the Examiner's allegation, the via hole in the circuit board 11 of Potters et al. is clearly not conductive. Instead, the via hole of Potters et al. is merely provided in the circuit board 11 to enable the metal rivet to extend therethrough. Potters et al. neither teaches nor suggests that the via hole could or should be conductive. Thus, the via hole in the circuit board 11 of Potters et al. cannot be fairly construed as "a ground conductor portion" as recited in Applicant's claim 1. Thus, Potters et al. clearly fails to teach or suggest "a circuit substrate having a ground conductor portion" as recited in Applicant's claim 1.

As is readily apparent from the Examiner's description of the prior art rejection over Potters et al., the Examiner has completely ignored many features recited in Applicant's claims 7, 9 and 16.

Particularly, the Examiner has completely ignored the following features which are positively recited in Applicant's claims 7, 9 and 16: "a connector contained in the information card including an external conductor," "an inner side of said conductive external panel electrically contacts an outer side of said external conductor of said connector contained in the information card so as to be connected to each other," "said conductive external panel electrically contacts said ground conductor portion of said circuit substrate contained in the information card so as to be connected to each other," "an external panel having a ground member disposed therein," and "a seat member

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protruding in the direction opposed to said ground member."

Young et al. was relied upon merely to teach a panel made of stainless steel. However, Young et al. fails to teach or suggest any of the features cited above. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Young et al. fails to cure the deficiencies of Potters et al. described above.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Potters et al. and Young et al., applied alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the unique combination and arrangement of elements recited in claims 1, 7, 9 and 16 of the present application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 7, 9 and 16 are allowable. Claims 2-6, 8, 10 and 17 depend upon claims 1, 7, 9 and 16, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claims 1, 7, 9 and 16 are allowable. Claims 11-15 have been allowed by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions the Commissioner for a One-month extension of time, extending to March 10, 2004, the period for response to the Office Action dated November 10, 2003.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 9, 2004


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